

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for multicast document printing, the method comprising:
- a) —receiving document data to be printed at a host, wherein said document data includes a number of copies of a documents to be created from the document data;
 - b) —dividing the number of ~~documents~~ copies to be created into at least two batches for at least two corresponding, separate printers;
 - e) —formatting the document data into a print job;
 - d) —embedding routing information for distribution of the batches to the corresponding printers into the print job; and
 - e) —transmitting the print job as one transmission to the at least two separate printers connected by a common network to the host.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the host is a printer.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the host is application software resident in a printer.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the host is a computer.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the host is a scanner.
6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the printer further comprises a multi-function peripheral.
7. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the printer further comprises a copier.
8. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the printer further comprises a fax machine.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting the print job to at least two separate printers includes reception and temporary storage at a store-and-forward device.

10. (currently amended) A computer readable medium, said medium containing software code comprising:

a)——code operable to receive document data to be printed at a host, wherein said document data includes a number of ~~documents~~ copies of a document to be created from the document data;

b)——code operable to divide the number of ~~documents~~ copies to be created into at least two batches for at least two corresponding, separate printers;

e)——code operable to format the document data into a print job;

d)——code operable to embed routing information for distribution of the batches to the corresponding printers into the print job; and

e)——code operable to transmit the print job in one transmission to the at least two separate printers connected by a common network to the host.

11. (original) The medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable medium is read by a computer.

12. (original) The medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable medium is read by a printer.

13. (original) The medium of claim 10, wherein the medium is a diskette.

14. (original) The medium of claim 10, wherein the medium is a compact disc.

15. (original) The medium of claim 10, wherein the medium is a network-accessible file.


16. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:

a)——a port operable to connect to a network and receiving document data to be converted into hard copy output with a predetermined number of ~~documents~~ copies of a document to be created;

b)——a processor in communication with the port, operable to format the document data into a print job comprising a document and a number of copies of the document and to

assign batches to at least two printers, wherein the sum of ~~documents~~ copies to be created within each batch is substantially equal to the number of ~~documents~~ copies to be created; and

e)——a communications port operable to transmit the batches in one transmission to printers connected to the network device by a common network.

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17. (original) The network device of claim 16, wherein the network device is a computer.
 18. (original) The network device of claim 16, wherein the network device is a printer.
 19. (original) The network device of claim 16, wherein the processor is a raster image processor.
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